

Board of Selectmen  
Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room

First Selectman Nina Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Selectmen Chris Spaulding and Dennis Tracey were present. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Police Commission members: Woody Bliss, Beth Gralnick, Bill Brady and Jesse DePasquale, Police Officer Joe Miceli, and Town Attorney Pat Sullivan.

This meeting was videotaped and can be viewed on Channel 79 and on our Town of Weston website.

- 1- **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Barbara Pearson
- 2- **Discussion /decision regarding FY 17/18 Community Grants - Homes with Hope – Hal Schupack and Jeff Weiser** - Mr. Weiser explained their merger with Project Return last year. He explained that Project Return focuses on young women ages 18-24. Mr. Weiser stated that Homes with Hope is about 30% publicly funded and 70% private. He also stated there have been several Weston residents that have used their services over past years, and some current residents in their shelters.

Ms. Daniel suggested paying the grant money in installments. Mr. Tracey said he is not inclined to cut it every year, but he likes the idea of installments. Ms. Daniel explained they would pay \$4,500 now and \$4,500 later as long as no other requests come up. Mr. Tracey moved to authorize the payment from the community grant expenditures to Homes with Hope of \$4,500 with an understanding that we expect to make a second appropriation for \$4,500 in 6 months. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**First Night Westport/Weston, Barbara Pearson** – Ms. Pearson explained that their budget has stayed the same even though performers are asking for more. She said they depend on the community to support the event. Ms. Pearson explained they have maintained the price of admission because they don't want to discourage families from coming with children. Mr. Spaulding asked what the contributions were last year. Ms. Pearson stated last year our contribution was \$600. Mr. Tracey would like to contribute \$750 with a minimum of 10 tickets donated. Mr. Spaulding moved to approve a payment of \$750 from the Community Grants expenditures to First Night Westport Weston with the understanding they will attempt to make at least 10 vouchers available to our social services department. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3- **Discussion/decision with members of the SPC Marketing and Communications Committee**— Bill Douglas and Marc Karasu – Mr. Douglass and Mr. Karasu presented the recent New York Times article about Weston. Mr. Karasu stated that Weston hasn't been in the NY Times for 15 years. He said this was a result of a lot of work produced by the Weston Way website. Mr. Karasu and Mr. Douglass stated they would like to build on this and presented an idea of a new committee to take the place of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC), called Strategic Marketing and Innovation Committee (SMIC). They stated they envision to the SMIC would provide the Selectmen with research results and ideas. Ms. Daniel stated she would like to see a 7 member SMIC with advisors, but that the SMIC would not perform duties assigned to the Planning and Zoning Commission. She would like to see the SMIC concentrate on real estate and promotional materials. Mr. Tracey agreed. Mr. Spaulding asked if they spoke to rest of the existing SPC. Mr. Karasu said they will plan on running this by the existing SPC, whose terms are up on September 16<sup>th</sup> and see who would like to be involved with this new committee. Ms. Daniel would also like to have a budget for the SMIC. Mr. Tracey moved to establish a select committee called the Strategic Marketing and Innovation Committee, made up of 7 members co-chaired by Mark Karasu and Bill Douglass, for a term for 2 years starting September 17, Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**4- Executive Session: -**

- a. Negotiation about public works collective bargaining agreement
- b. Discussion about MPP
- c. Discussion regarding Code Red emergency notification system.
- d. Discussion/decision regarding Police Chief agreement

\*Mr. Luiz asked to add an item to the executive session part of the agenda, to discuss pending litigation Steephill Renewables vs. Town of Weston. Mr. Tracey so moved. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:48pm, Mr. Tracey moved to enter into executive session to discuss union negotiations, legal advice and security. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Invited were members of Police Commission (Woody Bliss, Beth Gralnick, Bill Brady and Jesse DePasquale) and Officer Joe Miceli)

**Public Session resumed at: 9:56 pm.**

- 5- Mr. Spaulding moved to add to the agenda d/d regarding adding the settlement of the Steep Hill Renewables LLC vs. Weston Board of Education, et al. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6- Mr. Tracey moved that the BOS consent to the settlement reached between CIRMA and the plaintiff in the matter of Steep Hill Renewables vs. the Weston Board of Educaiton, et al. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7- **Discussion/decision to approve a collective bargaining agreement with the Public Works Union.** Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the tentatively agreed to collective bargaining agreement with the Public Works Union and to have the First Selectman sign it. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8- **Discussion/decision regarding a request for additional staffing in the Department of Social Services** Mr. Luiz explained the request from Social Services, \$18 an hour/ 10 hours a week/ for 17 weeks. Mr. Luiz felt it was appropriate to hire this temporary part time staff given the current circumstances in the Social Services department. Mr. Spaulding moved to authorize the hire of temporary staffing in the Social Services Department, and to authorize a supplemental appropriation of \$3,060 to fund the expense. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9- **Minutes Approval – August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017** Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the BOS minutes from August 3, 2017. Mr. Tracey seconded. Ms. Daniel asked to amend the minutes showing the amended date of the Town Meeting to October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the BOS minutes of August 17<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10- **Property Tax Refund Approval (see attached)** Mr. Tracey moved to approve the Property Tax Refunds as listed on the September 7<sup>th</sup> BOS Agenda for a total amount of \$4,714.09. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**11- First Selectman Updates:**

- a. Financial Analysis of July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display –postponed
- b. Annual comment on Weston by Moody's Investors Service –postponed
- c. Response to letter from the Governor - postponed
- d. 9/11 memorial ceremony – Monday at Town Hall, 8:30 am

12- **Discussion/decision regarding the September 9<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing logistics** Mr. Luiz reviewed some of the logistics of the hearing with the Board. It was confirmed that the following rules would be followed: comments will be 3 minutes or less, only residents can speak (unless they own land or are legally representing a resident), the hearing will last 2 ½ hours ending promptly at 1pm, the hearing will be filmed, there will be a sign in sheet for people who want to speak, the moderator will rotate between pro/con/other.

13- Mr. Tracey moved to adjourn at 10:13 pm. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes taken by Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Approved: October 4, 2017